



2015 STUDY OF THE U.S. INSTITUTES FOR UNIVERSITY FACULTY AND SCHOLARS

The Embassy of the United States of America in Mexico is pleased to announce the U.S. Studies Institutes for scholars offered by the Branch for the Study of the United States of the Department of State. A total of six institutes will be offered for multinational groups of 18 experienced foreign university faculty, scholars and other related professionals during a six week period beginning in or after June 2015.

GENERAL PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Study of the United States Institutes are intensive post-graduate level academic programs with integrated study tours whose purpose is to provide foreign university faculty and other scholars the opportunity to deepen their understanding of U.S. society, culture, values and institutions. The ultimate goal is to strengthen curricula and to enhance the quality of teaching about the United States in academic institutions abroad.

The Institutes will take place at various colleges and universities throughout the U.S. and focus on a particular theme or topic about the U.S. over the course of six weeks beginning in or after June 2015. Each Institute includes two components: a four week academic residence component and a two week integrated study tour. Eighteen candidates world-wide are selected on a competitive basis to participate in each institute. Prospective applicants are encouraged to visit the program's website to obtain general information about the Institutes at:

<http://exchanges.state.gov/susi>.

CANDIDATES' DESCRIPTION AND QUALIFICATIONS:

- ❖ The Institutes are highly competitive. Priority will be given to candidates who have firm plans to enhance, update or develop courses and/or educational materials with a U.S. studies focus or component, who have no prior or limited experience in the United States, and who have special interest in the program subject areas as demonstrated through past scholarships, accomplishments, and professional duties.
- ❖ Candidates should be mid-career, typically between the ages of 30-50, highly-motivated and experienced scholars and professionals generally from institutions of higher education or research focused organizations (not-for-profits, think tanks, etc). While the educational level of participants may vary, most should have graduate degrees and substantial knowledge of the thematic area of the Institute or related field.
- ❖ Ideal candidates are individuals with little or no prior experience in the United States, whose home institution is seeking to introduce aspects of U.S. studies into its curricula, to develop new courses in the subject of the Institute, to enhance and update existing courses on the United States, or to offer specialized seminars/workshops for professionals in U.S. Studies areas related to the program theme. While the nominee's scholarly and professional credentials are an important consideration, the potential impact and multiplier effect of the Institute is equally important.
- ❖ **Mexican citizenship.** Interested parties with dual nationalities (U.S. and Mexican) or those holding resident status in the U.S. are ineligible.
- ❖ Candidates must demonstrate English language fluency. 213 CB (computer-based) TOEFL or 550 Institutional TOEFL score or equivalents are required. Institutes are rigorous and demanding programs; participants will be expected to handle substantial reading assignments in English and to fully and actively participate in all seminar and panel discussions. English fluency is vital to a successful experience in the Institute for all participants.
- ❖ Candidates should be willing and able to fully take part in an intensive post-graduate level academic program and study tour. While senior faculty members and new professionals to the field are eligible

applicants, first consideration will be given to mid-career professionals, and to persons who are likely to be comfortable with campus life and an active program schedule. The U.S. Department of State strives to recruit diverse nominees including candidates from disadvantaged groups.

PROGRAM BENEFITS AND REQUIREMENTS:

Financial Provisions: The Department of State will cover all participant costs, including: program administration, international/domestic travel and ground transportation, book, cultural, housing, subsistence, mailing, and incidental allowances.

Accommodations and meals: When possible, each participant will have a private room with a shared bathroom during the residency portion (four weeks) of the institute. However, private room accommodations cannot be guaranteed during the residency portion of the program. During the study tour (up to two weeks), participants will likely share a hotel room with another participant of the same gender. During the residency, housing will typically be in college or university owned housing. Most meals will be provided at campus facilities, though participants may have access to a kitchen to cook some meals on their own. Full details will be provided at a later date.

Health Benefits: All participants will receive the Department of State's coverage of USD\$100,000 with a \$25 co-pay per medical visit, for the duration of the program. **Pre-existing conditions are not covered.** Information on health benefit program may be found online at: www.usdos.sevencorners.com

Program requirements and Restrictions: All participants are expected to participate fully in the program. They must attend all lectures and organized activities, and complete assigned readings. Family members and/or friends cannot accompany participants on any part of the program. The Institutes curriculum will not formally address teaching methodology and pedagogical methods. Candidates should be aware that they are applying for an intensive Institute and there will be little time for personal pursuits unrelated to the program. The Institutes should not be viewed as research program.

Health Conditions: A physical examination is not required in order to participate in the program. It is important, however, for U.S. host universities to know in advance about any medical conditions that might require special assistance (wheelchair access, limitations on walking, etc.) or chronic conditions, such as diabetes, for which treatment may be necessary during the program. All institute programs include substantial travel, as well as day or weekend trips that may require long walks or time spent standing.

Smoking: All applicants should be aware that smoking is prohibited or restricted in the United States, especially in public buildings and on college and university campuses.

Selection process: Candidates selected by the U.S. Embassy will be nominated to the U.S. Department of State for final selection and approval. Candidates will be notified regarding selection or non-selection by late April 2014.

INSTITUTE THEMES:

1. U.S. Political Thought

Host Institution:	Pending approval, the Institute will be hosted by University of Massachusetts Donahue Institute. Amherst, MA
Designed for Specialists in:	Political Science, Political Theory, Sociology, Philosophy

This Institute will provide a deeper understanding of major currents in U.S. political thought from the colonial period to the present. Drawing upon the American Political Development approach, the Institute will provide a full and diverse understanding of U.S. political thought its connection to U.S. politics and institutions by linking contemporary issues with historical debates. The Institute will explore particular themes including self-rule and limited government, liberty and freedom, individualism and identity, equality and inequality, and the American dream. The Institute concludes with an integrated two-week study tour to Boston, New York City, Gettysburg, Harrisburg, Charlottesville, and Washington, D.C.

2. Contemporary American Literature

Host Institution:	Pending approval, the Institute will be hosted by University of Louisville
Designed for Specialists in:	Literature in general, American literature or American studies

This Institute will provide a deeper understanding of U.S. society and culture, past and present, through an examination of contemporary American (U.S.) literature. Its purpose is twofold: to explore contemporary American writers and writing in a variety of genres; and to suggest how the themes explored in those works reflect larger currents within contemporary U.S. society and culture. The program will explore the diversity of the American literary landscape, examining how major contemporary writers, schools and movements reflect the traditions of the U.S. literary canon. At the same time, the program will expose participants to writers who represent a departure from that tradition, and who are establishing new directions for American literature.

3. Journalism and Media in the United States

Host Institution:	Pending approval, the Institute will be hosted by Ohio University
Designed for:	Journalism instructors and related specialists

This Institute will provide a deeper understanding of the roles that journalism and the media play in U.S. society. It will examine the rights and responsibilities of the media in a democratic society, including editorial independence, journalistic ethics, legal constraints, international journalism, and media business models. The Institute will cover strategies for teaching students of journalism the basics of the tradecraft: researching, reporting, writing, and editing. The program will also highlight technology's impact on journalism, such as the influence of the internet, the globalization of the news media, the growth of satellite television and radio networks, and other changes in media that are transforming the profession.

4. Religious Pluralism in the United States

Host Institution:	Pending approval, the Institute will be hosted by University of California, Santa Barbara
Designed for Specialists in:	Political Science, Sociology, Religion, History, American Studies

This Institute will focus on U.S. society and culture, past and present, through an examination of religious pluralism in the United States and its intersection with American democracy. Employing a multi-disciplinary approach, and drawing on fields such as history, political science, sociology, anthropology, law and others, the program will explore both the historical and contemporary relationship between church and state in the United States. Participants will examine the following aspects of religious pluralism in the United States: the ways in which religious thought and practice have influenced, and been influenced by, the development of American-style democracy; the intersections of religion and politics in the United States in such areas as elections, public policy, and foreign policy; and the sociology and demography of religion in the United States today, including a survey of the diversity of contemporary religious beliefs and its impact on American politics and society.

5. U.S. Culture and Society

Host Institution:	Pending approval, the Institute will be hosted by New York University
Designed for Specialists in:	History, American Studies, American Literature

This Institute will provide a deeper understanding of U.S. society, culture, values and institutions. The Institute will examine the ethnic, racial, economic, political, and religious contexts in which various cultures have manifested themselves in U.S. society, while focusing on the ways in which these cultures have influenced social movements and American identity throughout U.S. history. The program will draw from a diverse disciplinary base, and will itself provide a model of how a foreign university might approach the study of the U.S. culture and society.

6. U.S. Foreign Policy

Host Institution:

Pending approval, the Institute will be hosted by Bard College
In New York

Designed for Specialists in:

International Relations, Foreign Policy, History, Political
Science

This Institute will provide a deeper understanding of how contemporary U.S. foreign policy is formulated and implemented. The Institute will include a historical review of significant events, individuals and philosophies that have shaped U.S. foreign policy. The Institute will explain the role of key players in U.S. foreign policy including the executive and legislative branches of government, the media, the U.S. public, think-tanks, non-governmental organizations, and multilateral institutions.

DEADLINE FOR ALL INSTITUTES: January 5, 2015

If you are interested in applying, please complete and submit the enclosed application form and send as an e-mail attachment to: solicitudesbecas@state.gov. The subject of the e-mail should be your first name, last name and the Institute you are applying to. Example: Margarita González – 2014 SUSI U.S. Culture and Society.